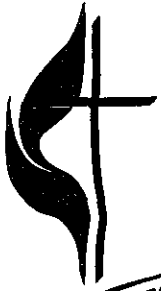


CGB-CC-0239



First United Methodist Church

903 East 4th Street • P.O.Box 248 • Panama City, Florida 32401 • (850) 763-6537 • (850) 785-1421 Fax

RECEIVED & INSPECTED

JAN - 4 2006

FCC - MAILROOM

Closed Captioning Undue Burden Waiver Petition
First United Methodist Church of Panama City

Church Background:

First United Methodist Church is located at 903 E 4th Street, Panama City, Florida. The church was founded on 1906 and moved to the present location in 1945. Our mission statement reads: As members of Panama City's First United Methodist Church, we believe that we are called by God to be the Body of Christ, to make disciples and to proclaim the Gospel. Through the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit we will provide meaningful worship experiences and ministries open to all people. We will be a church fully alive in Christ working toward a community filled with God's love. Our ministry to the people in our community through the means of broadcasting our worship service on Television directly follows this mission statement.

General Program Description:

The hour long "Eleven-o'clock Worship Service" brings music, prayer and the word of the bible to those homebound, hospitalized and in Nursing Homes and Assisted Living in our area. The content of the service and wide coverage area of WJHG, Channel 7 who telecasts the service, support our TV Ministries mission to take the name of Christ into all the world.

Specific Program Information:

Since March 11, 1968, the hour long eleven-o'clock worship service has been telecast every week on WJHG, Channel 7, and the local NBC affiliate. Metro Panama City, Bay County, the Panhandle of Florida, Alabama and Georgia are all a part of Channel 7's coverage area. A.C. Neilson estimates that the service will reach over 100,000 people in the metro area during the year.

Program production staff consists of a paid Director with all volunteers manning cameras and other equipment as support.

First Methodist Church operates as a non-profit religious institution supported with donations from the church congregation. A portion of the church budget is designated each year for TV production supplies and broadcast equipment maintenance.

In 2006, \$11,320.00 has been budgeted for this ministry. This budget amount does not cover the cost of broadcast time.

Currently the amount is \$825 a week for three broadcast channels. We anticipate rate increases in 2006 as pricing has remained the same for several years.

In addition, a recent survey of our broadcast equipment lists specific items that should be replaced due to age. The current budget would require additional funding by the congregation to cover these replacements. The increase in program cost for closed captioning would require larger donations from the church members. In addition, funds might be diverted from other ministry areas or the service on our local cable channels might be dropped.

Two church member volunteers solicit the congregation for contributions to support the ministry.

The main expenses of church are for facility maintenance, utilities and staff salaries.

Details of Closed Captioning:

From December 8 through 19th, a search of the internet has located only a few companies with the capability to close caption live programming. CPC Computer Prompting and Captioning Company in Rockville Md. charges a \$100 set up fee and \$240 per one hour program. Aberdeen Captioning in Rancho Santa Margarita, Ca. charges \$250 for a single event however, they can offer discounted rates for long term contracts not specified in their information.

Impact on Operations of the Church:

First United Methodist Church offers a wide variety of religious experiences for adults, young adults, youth and children through formal and contemporary services Sunday School and prayer groups. Social activities include church suppers and trips to outside events and activities. Adult, youth, children's choirs and a bell choir are included in the music ministry.

Other Factors:

The petitioner believes that the local non-news exemption to the closed captioning rules applies to The "Eleven-o-Clock Service at First United Methodist Church" which is aired live and recorded for replay on local cable channels Knology and Comcast.

The program is produced and distributed locally and the sermons of the ministers at First United Methodist Church are of primarily local public interest. The episodes are not news, and the electronic newsroom technique is not available. Notwithstanding the applicability of the exemption, we have filed this petition in an abundance of caution and for the purpose of establishing certainty

Conclusion: As shown by this petition and its attachments, the Commission should grant a waiver of the closed captioning requirements in this case, because requiring closed captioning would create an under burden. The costs of captioning would be excessively high and would have a significant impact on Petitioner's operations. The Petitioner's type of operations and financial resources are different in kind and magnitude from a mainstream programming provider. Because of the significant difficulty and expense of providing closed captions, a waiver under section 79.1 is warranted. If more information is needed, please contact me at the address below.

Respectfully submitted,
First United Methodist Church

903 E. 4th Street
Panama City, Florida 32401

By
Betty Kearney, Chairman, TV Ministry Committee
123 N Cove Terrace Drive
Panama City, Florida, 32401
850-763-4100

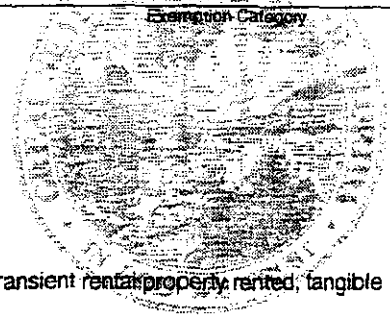
**Consumer's Certificate of Exemption**DR-14
R. 01/02

Issued Pursuant to Chapter 212, Florida Statutes

85-8012646985C-8	07/05/2004	07/31/2009	RELIGIOUS PHYSICAL PLACE
Certificate Number	Effective Date	Expiration Date	Exemption Category

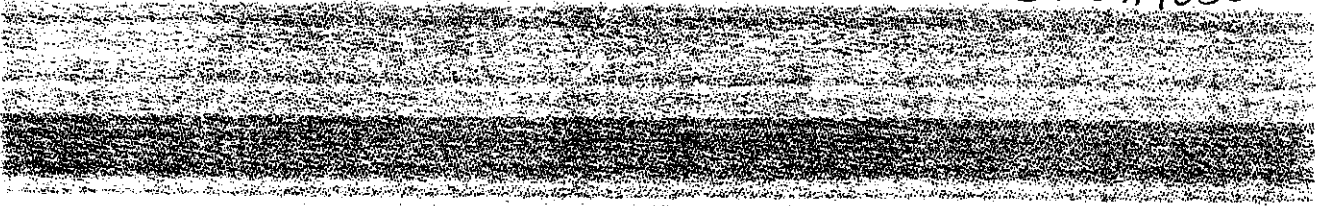
This certifies that

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
903 E 4TH ST
PANAMA CITY FL 32401-3760



is exempt from the payment of Florida sales and use tax on real property rented, transient rental property rented, tangible personal property purchased or rented, or services purchased.

59-0714830



Closed Captioning Compliance Statement

1st United Methodist Church certifies to Station WJHG-TV, Panama City, FL that the broadcast by the Station of our weekly church service is exempt from the closed captioning requirements of the Federal Communications Commission (47 CFR § 79.1) under the § 79.1(d)(8) exemption for "locally produced and distributed non-news programming with no repeat value" because the weekly church service program, which is co-produced in cooperation with the Station:

- is not news programming;
- is of specific local interest to residents of the Station's service area;
- is not repeated or redistributed; and
- is not scripted so that electronic news room closed captioning would be unavailable.

If there is any change in the above information, we will provide immediate written notice to the Station.

1ST United Methodist Church

Dated: _____